

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A process for application of powder coatings to conductive and non-conductive surfaces comprising

- a) covering the surface with material which absorbs high-energy radiation within a wavelength range of 250 to 2,500 nm and has heating rates of more than 50°C per second, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of carbon, graphite, magnetite, iron oxide, iron oxide black, tin oxide and antimony oxide and
- b) applying a powder coating composition to the covered surface and melting and curing the applied powder coating composition with NIR radiation;
whereby the material covering the surface absorbs radiation within said wavelength range and is heated at a rate of more than 50°C by the NIR radiation.

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein the material is ~~selected from the group consisting of carbon and graphite.~~

Claim 4. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1 wherein the heating rate is ~~in the range of~~ more than 65°C per second.

Claim 5. (canceled)

Claim 6. (previously submitted) The process according to claim 1 wherein the covering step is realized with a layer thickness in the range of 0.5 to 1 µm.

Claim 7. (original) The process according to claim 1 wherein step (b) follows immediately after step (a).

Claim 8. (original) The process according to claim 1 wherein NIR irradiation at a wavelength between 800 and 1200 nm and with an intensity of more than 1 W/cm² is used to melt and cure the coating composition.

Claim 9. (withdrawn) A process for application of powder coatings to conductive and non-conductive surfaces comprising

- a) covering the surface with material which absorbs high-energy radiation within a wavelength range of 250 to 2,500 nm and has heating rates of more than 50°C per second, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of carbon, graphite, magnetite, iron oxide, iron oxide black, tin oxide and antimony oxide and
- b) applying a powder coating composition to the covered surface and melting and curing the applied powder coating composition with a combination of NIR radiation and UV radiation wherein the NIR radiation melts and cures the powder coating and the UV radiation further cures the powder coating.

Claim 10. (original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the surface is selected from the group of metal substrates, transparent organic and inorganic substrates and temperature sensitive substrates.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The process according to claim 10 wherein the surface is the surface of a thick metal substrate having a thickness of 3 mm or more.

Claim 12. (canceled)